

TOBACCO FACT SHEET

Economics of Tobacco Use

Health costs of smoking for Mississippians total approximately \$540 million annually. Tobacco is a dangerous product that cost more than most people realize. In this country, 400,000 people die each year from their own cigarette smoking. Minors smoke more than 900 million packs of cigarettes per year throughout the United States generating \$1.5 billion per year in revenue for the tobacco companies.

Mississippi Facts

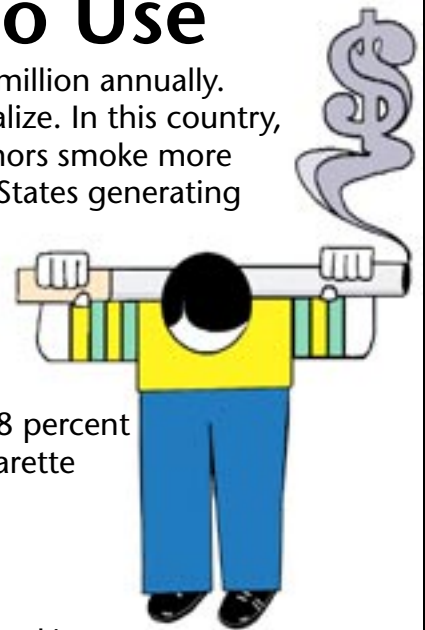
- ◆ 23.4 percent of adults were current smokers in 2000.
- ◆ 30.5 percent of high school students (public and private) and 17.8 percent of middle school students (public or private) reported current cigarette use in 2000.

Healthy People 2010 National Objectives:

- ◆ Increase to 100 percent the proportion of worksites with formal smoking policies limiting smoking to ventilated areas.
- ◆ Reduce the age-adjusted rate of coronary heart disease deaths to no more than 166 per 100,000 population. (Rate age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population)
- ◆ Slow the rate of lung cancer deaths to achieve an age-adjusted rate of no more than 44.9 per 100,000 population. (Rate age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.)

The Facts

- ◆ Direct smoking-related medical costs total more than \$75 billion each year.
- ◆ For each of the 22 billion packs of cigarettes sold in 1999, \$7.18 per pack was spent on medical care and loss of productivity.
- ◆ Smokers have twice as many on-the-job accidents and are absent 50 percent more than non-smokers.
- ◆ Office equipment – such as computers, machinery, carpets, and furniture - lasts significantly longer in a smoke-free environment.
- ◆ Smokers cost the U.S. economy more than \$150 billion annually in health care, lost work time, and low productivity.
- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that smoking restrictions would result in a savings of \$4 billion per year in housekeeping and maintenance expenses to employers.
- ◆ Studies demonstrate that increases in the price of cigarettes decrease smoking, particularly by adolescents.
- ◆ Tobacco companies spent nearly \$7 billion to advertise and promote cigarettes in 1998.



What Can Be Done

By Adults:

- ✓ Work to ban tobacco promotion and advertising.
- ✓ Set examples for youth and peers.

By Youth:

- ✓ Don't start using tobacco products.
- ✓ Encourage peers not to start.
- ✓ A smoker that smokes a pack a day spends nearly \$1,200 a year on cigarettes.



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Equal Opportunity in Employment/Services

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